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# FABLES AND TALES

By

W. F. ROCHELEAU



— CHICAGO —

A. FLANAGAN, PUBLISHER.



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# FABLES AND TALES.

COLLECTED, RE-WITTEN AND

EDITED BY

*William*  
*Flanagan*  
W. F. ROCHELEAU.

*SECOND AND THIRD READER GRADES.*

CHICAGO:

A. FLANAGAN, PUBLISHER.

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# FABLES AND TALES.

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## Puss and Poodle.

Puss and Poodle were two pets. They belonged to a little girl whose name was Jennie. Poodle, as you all know, was a little dog, and he liked to tease Puss.



When Puss wanted to get out of his way she would run up a large tree that stood near Jennie's window, and sit on one of the branches.

Then Poodle would come to the foot of the tree and bark and snarl, and make a great fuss. But

Puss would close her eyes and make believe she was asleep. After awhile Poodle would get tired and go and lie down. Then Puss would scamper off to play.

### **Johnny and the Swan.**

The swan had a nice brood of young ones that she took down to the pond for a bath every morning.

One morning she saw Johnny stealing through the bushes with a stone in his hand. The swan knew that Johnny was a naughty boy because she had seen him throw stones at the birds.

So she said to him, "Master Johnny, you are a bad boy, and I think you want to kill one of my babies with that stone. Be off as fast as you can, and drop the stone, too, or I will show you how hard I can strike with my wings."

Then the swan stretched out her long neck and spread her wings and ran at Johnny. Like most naughty boys, he was a coward, so he dropped the stone and ran home crying.

### **Lucy and the Swan.**

Little Lucy was Johnny's sister. She was gentle and kind to all. One day she came down to the pond to see the swan.

The swan was swimming gracefully on the water, and when she came near Lucy drew back. She was afraid of such a great, white bird.

“Why are you afraid, little girl, I won’t harm you,” said the Swan. Her voice was so sweet and



she looked so pretty that Lucy soon came back and watched her for a long time.

The next morning Lucy took some bread to the pond with her, and the swan came up and ate it out of her hand. After that they were good friends.

### **Pug and Spitz.**

Pug and Spitz belonged to the same master. One day Spitz found a nice bone. He thought no one saw him pick it up, and ran off and buried it so Pug would not get it.



Pug was peeking through a hole in the fence and saw Spitz when he found the bone, but could not see where he went with it. That evening he came up to Spitz, and said, very coaxingly, "Spitz, won't you tell me where you hid that bone so no thief could find it?"

"O, no," said Spitz, "you don't catch me that way. The thief would be just the one who would want to know where it was."

Do you think Pug wanted to steal the bone?

### **Charlie and Brindle.**

Brindle was an ox, and was so gentle that Charlie petted him every day.



Charlie came up to him one day while he was lying under a tree chewing his cud and said, "What are you thinking about, Brindle?"

“An ox can’t think,” said Brindle; “he can only chew.”

Wasn’t that a queer answer?

### **The Traveler and the Lark.**

A traveler was cheered on his way early one morning by the song of the lark.

“How cheerfully you sing,” said the traveler. “Why are you so happy?”

“I sing praises to God every morning for light and health and food,” replied the lark. “Do you praise Him, too?”

### **The Paper Kite and the Birds.**

Some boys had a fine, large kite that would fly very high. When the little birds saw it they thought it was a big bird, and were frightened.

“That great, ugly bird will surely eat us,” said one.

“He will carry us off,” said another.

“What big eyes he has, and how long his tail is,” said a third.

Then they all flew home and told their mother what they had seen. “You need not be frightened,” said the mother. “That is a paper bird, and can fly only when the wind blows.”



Just then the wind stopped blowing, and the kite came down pell-mell.

### **Fred and Spot.**

Fred had a puppy that he called Spot. Fred was fond of playing with Spot, and taught him tricks.

"Come, Spot," Fred would say, "now you must have your lesson." Spot learned to sit up straight



like a man, and to shake hands, and to speak for his food.

Fred wanted to teach him to walk on his hind feet. This was not so easy, and he did not know how he could do it. At last he thought of a plan.

Fred would take a piece of meat and hold it just high enough for Spot to reach with the tip of his nose when he stood on his hind feet.

Then Fred would move back a step, and Spot would try to reach the meat. In this way he soon learned to walk across the room. Fred always gave him the meat when the lesson was finished.

### **Little Mouse.**

“Little mouse, little mouse, why do you steal the sugar in my house?” said the lady.

“Dear lady, forgive me, I pray; I have five little babies at home, all snug in their nest. They are so hungry you will let me have it, I know.”

After that the kind lady put some sugar and crumbs on the hearth every day, and the little mouse came and carried them away to her nest.

### **The Dog and the Hedgehog.**

“Now, Mr. Hedgehog, I’ll seize you here; you are caught.”

“All right, Doggie, but mind what you’re about.”

And the hedgehog rolled himself up in a ball, and stuck his quills out so they pricked the dog’s nose every time it touched him.

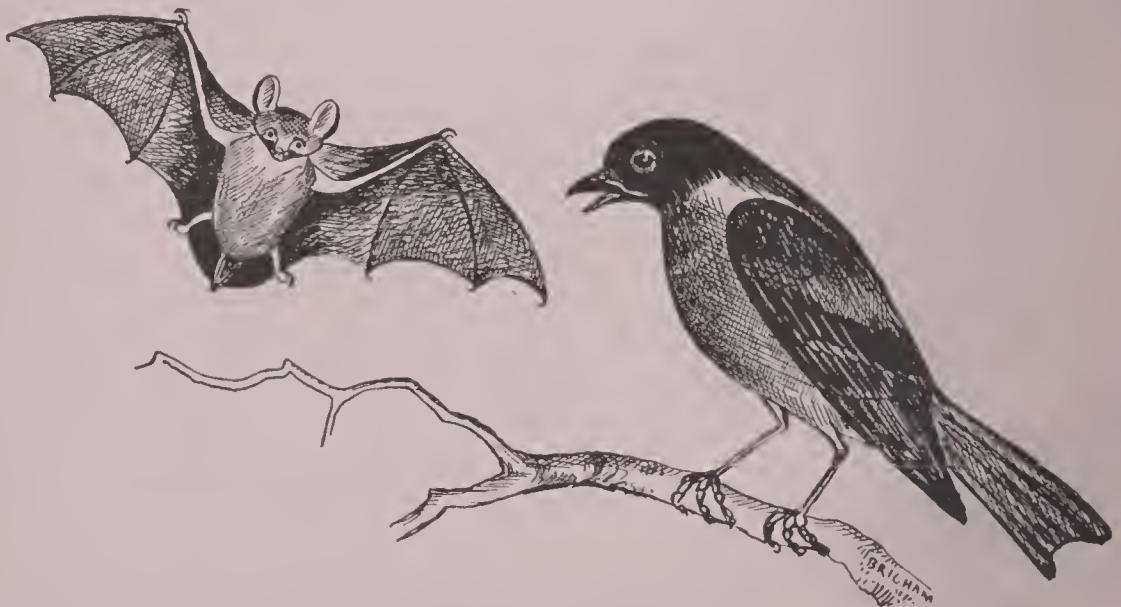
By and by doggie became angry, just as some boys do, and tried to bite the hedgehog through his quills. Then the hedgehog stuck doggie's nose full of quills, and his master had to pull them out. Doggie's nose was sore for a long time.

Do you think he was sorry he tried to bite the hedgehog?

### **The Bat and the Bird.**

"Come to me, dear birdie, do," said the bat. "I want you for my play-mate."

"No, no, Master Bat," said Birdie, "you have such a little, dried-up face and such funny wings



that I am afraid of you. I don't want to be your play-mate."

"Ah, poor little I," said the bat; "not a mouse nor a bird will play with me." So she sat in a

dark corner alone all the day through. When night came she flew out and caught bugs and flies.

### **The Little Pigs and Their Mother.**

“Children, now listen to me,” said their mother to some little pigs. “You must always keep yourselves neat and clean, and always look tidy so every one will be glad to see you. Now, don’t go running through all the town, and don’t get into the mud-puddles.”

But their mother ran into the first yard she found, and began to root up the flower beds. When the dogs drove her out she went to the nearest puddle and lay down in it.

What do you suppose the little pigs did?

### **The Pug and the Hound.**

“I wouldn’t be a hound like you and have to run through the rain and mud,” said the pug.

“I wouldn’t be a pug and sleep all day on a mat in a dusty room,” said the hound.

“O, I like to lie on a warm, soft sofa,” said the pug.

“And I like to run and leap,” said the hound.

The hound went hunting day by day. He ran over the hills and through the valleys, and the



fresh air kept him healthy and strong. But the pug kept so still and slept so much that he grew wheezy and fat and died while he was young.

### **The Fox and the Duck.**

The duck was swimming on the pond. The fox came creeping slyly through the reeds, but the duck saw him and kept away from the shore.

"Come here, my pretty duck," said the Fox. "I want to ask you a question."



"I could not teach you anything, Sir Fox," said the duck; "besides I fear you want to eat me."

The fox was very angry because he could not outwit the duck. "If I could only swim," said he, "I would make short work of her."



**Mary and Her Kitten.**

“O Kitty, Kitty, it’s wrong to scratch; give me your nice, soft paw.”

“Yes, little Mistress, I’ll give you my paw, but I think it is right to let you know that it hurts when you pinch me and pull my tail.”



Mary and Kitty played together all the morning. If Mary pinched Kitty sometimes and made her cry, and if Kitty scratched in return, neither meant to harm the other for they were the best of friends.

**Henry and the Duck.**

"Now, good old duck, just tell me how many ducklings you have," said Henry, as the duck and her brood came down to the pond.

"I have not learned to count, my little boy," said the Duck, "but do not think you could take one away without my knowing it. I watch each one with the greatest care."

Then she began to call the ducklings around her, and Henry gave them some crumbs of bread. After they had picked up all the crumbs they went into the water, and the little ducks swam by their mother's side.

Was Henry a good boy ?

**The Milk-Jug and the Water-Pail.**

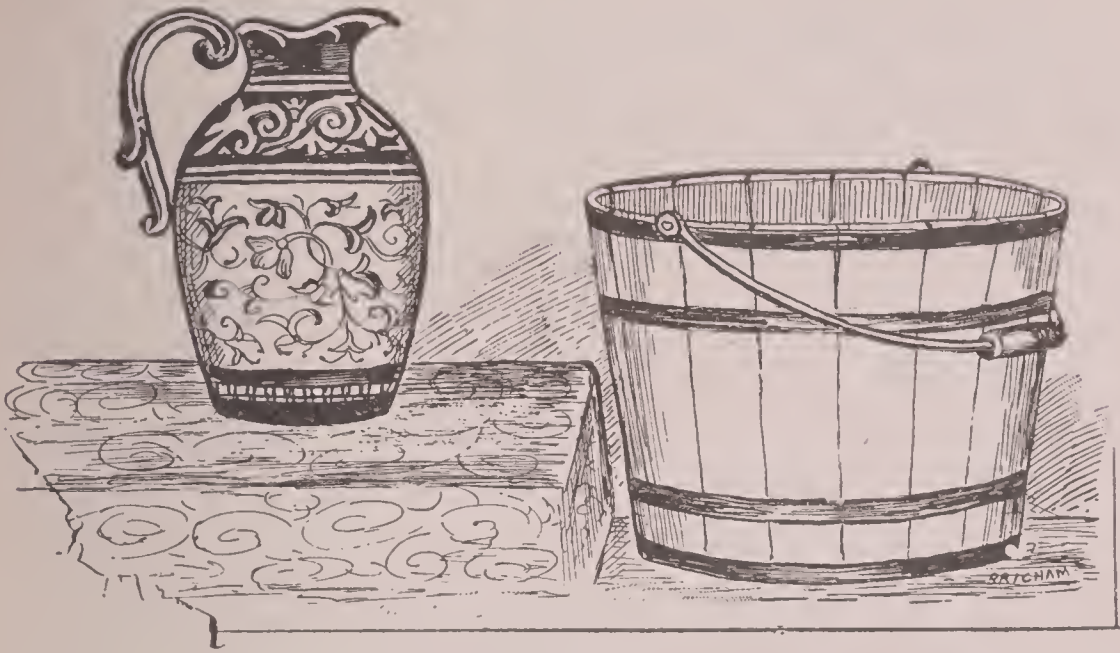
The milk-jug was always thinking about how pretty it was and of what fine china it was made. One day it sat beside the water-pail on the hearth.

"We can never agree," said the jug;" "I am made of china and you of common wood. I sit on the table and serve my lady, but you are a drudge."

"Fine things are sometimes brittle and I am sure you are," replied the pail. "You may not be worth as much as you think."

The very next day the cook cracked the milk-jug and made him leak. He was thrown into the

dust box and then into the river. But the plain



old water-pail was good for more than three years after the jug was broken.

### **Pussy.**

“Where are you going, Pussy, creeping along so slyly over the housetop? O, I see! You hope to catch that swallow; you think you will get him before he knows you are coming. But the swallow has sharp eyes, Pussy, dear, and will be off before you can reach him.”

Just as Pussy was about to jump upon him, the swallow flew away. Pussy was angry and cross all day because she lost the swallow. But at night she caught what was better for her, a mouse.

**The Silly Chicken.**

A hen went into the garden with her brood of chicks to scratch for worms. She told all the little chicks to keep close to her, as the hawk or the cat might catch them if they strayed off alone.

One little chick thought he was safe anywhere, and he knew nothing could frighten him. So he wandered out of the gate. He kept going on and on, until he could not hear his mother's voice. But he was not afraid. O, no. He went a little further, then what do you think he saw! On the fence, right over his head, lay the great black cat asleep.

"Peep, p-e-e-p, p-e-e-p, O, which way did I come? Where is mamma?" cried the silly chick. He was so frightened that he did not know the way back. But the old hen had missed him, and began to cluck as loud as she could. At last he heard her, and ran back to the brood.

He told his mother that he would never run away again.

**The Child and the Dove.**

A child saw a dove pulling the feathers out of her breast. The dove then put the feathers in her nest to make it soft and warm.



"That must hurt you, my gentle dove," said the child.

"Yes, it does hurt me," replied the dove, "but I do not mind so long as I can keep my little ones safe and warm."



Then the child thought how careful his mother was of him, and how good he ought to be to her.

### **Alice and the Swallow.**

"How glad I am that you have come back again," said Alice to the swallow, as she opened her window one bright spring morning and saw the little bird on a branch near by. "Where have been, and what made you stay so long?"

"I have been to a land far, far away, where it is summer all the year long," said the swallow.



"But how did you find your way back, and who told you it was spring?" asked Alice.

"God taught me," replied the swallow. "He knows best when the birds should go and when they should return, so we never lose our way nor return too early."

### **The Ape in Boots.**

A hunter wished to catch an ape that was among the branches of a tall tree, so he pulled off his boots and hid in some bushes near by. The ape soon came down and put on the boots, as the hunter knew he would.

"Now I'll walk like a man; I wish some one were here to see me," said the ape. But as soon as he began to walk the hunter came out from his hiding place. The ape started to climb the tree, but this he could not do with the boots on, so he was easily caught.

### **The Dog and the Raven.**

"Here, Raven, stop, you thief, stop, I say, you are carrying off my meat!"

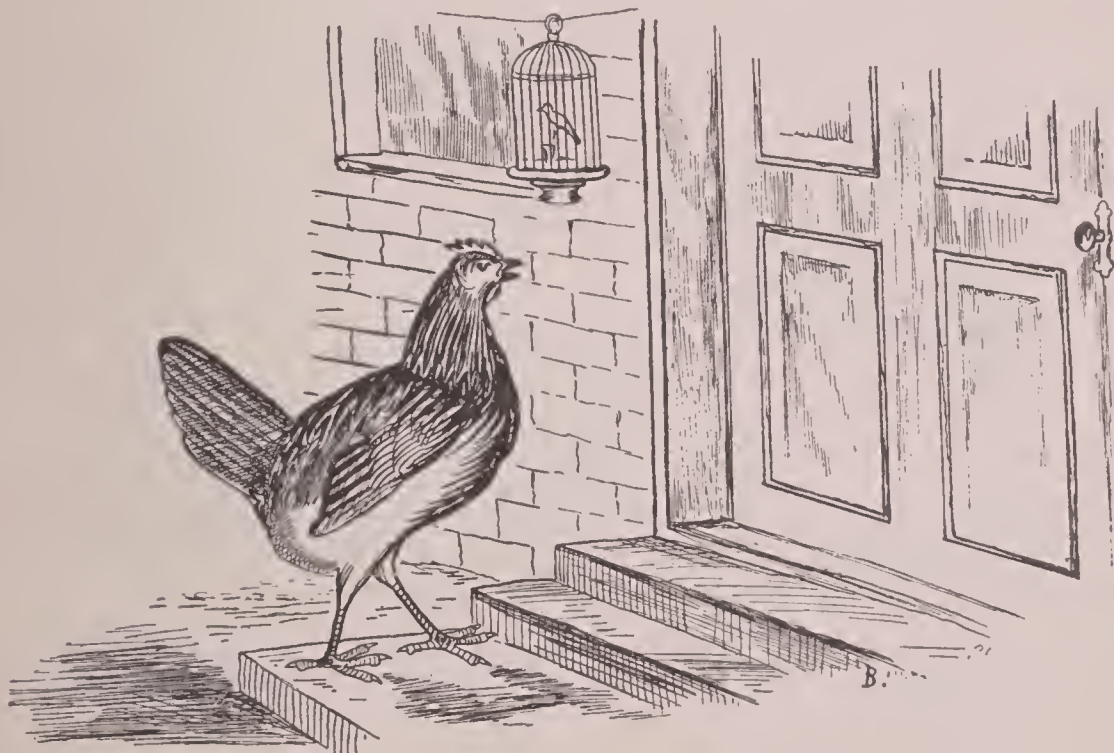
"Pray, little dog, just keep quiet. I belong to the new police, and take what I need from those who steal. As you have done by others, so will I do by you."

Whether what the raven said was true or not, I do not know. But the little dog did not tell of him when he flew away with his dinner. I think he did not care to tell how he came by the meat that the raven stole.

### **The Canary and the Hen.**

The hen began to cackle on the door step while the canary was singing in her cage in the window.

“Be quiet, can’t you, you noisy hen?” said the canary. “How can one sing amid such a cackling?”



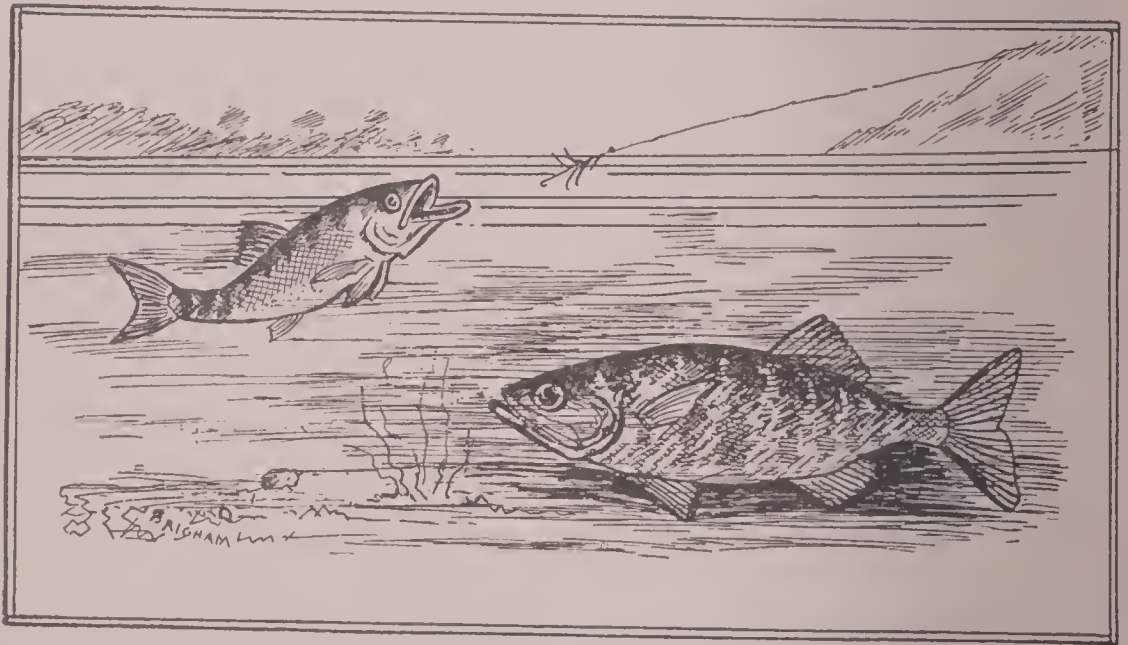
“I know my cackling is harsh and hoarse,” said the hen. “But look at the nice white eggs I lay; they’ll tell you why the farmer’s wife thinks so much of me.”

“Who is to settle this quarrel?” said the maid.  
“The truth is both are good; the hen for her eggs,  
and the canary for her song.”

### **The Little Fish.**

A little fish and a big fish were swimming in the brook. The little fish saw a fine fly floating over his head. He began to watch it greedily.

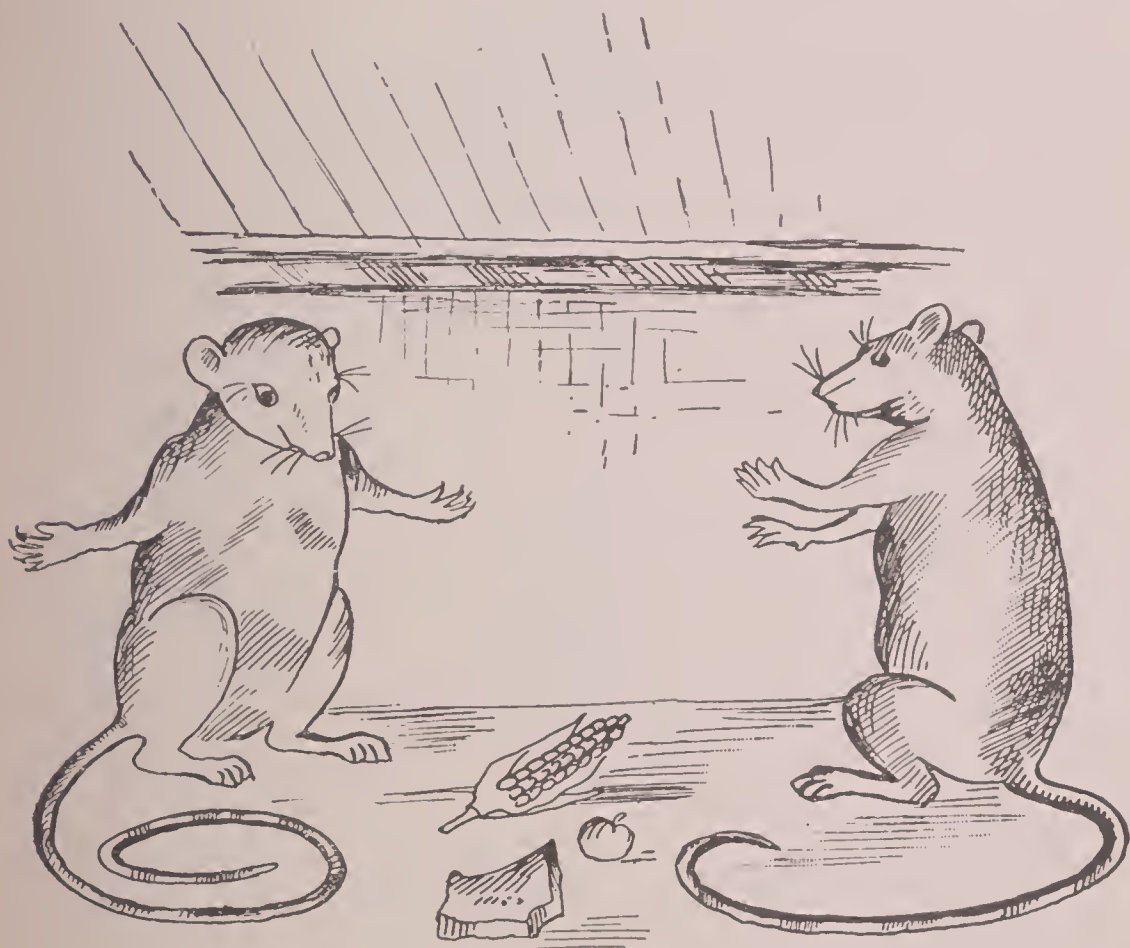
“There’s a hook in that fly; don’t you see that boy on the bank?” said the big fish.



But the little fish saw only the fly, and thought he knew best about it, so he seized the bait. He was snatched out of the brook and put into the the frying-pan.

**The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse.**

A country mouse invited his city cousin to dine with him. He served a dinner of beans, oat meal and bacon, with a rind of cheese for desert. The dainty city mouse turned up his nose at such fare, though it was the best his poor cousin could set before him.



“You live like an ant here,” said the city mouse. “Now I have a nice warm nest in the house, and more good things than I can eat; come and live with me and be happy.”



"Agreed," said the other, and they at once started for town. When they reached home, the city mouse said, "You must be hungry after such a long walk; let us dine."

They went to the pantry where they found cake, jelly, figs, and some bits of nice cheese. Just as they began to eat, the cook came in and frightened them so they ran into a hole and waited for her to go out.

In a short time they came back; one took a bite of the figs and the other began to nibble the cheese, when they heard the most dreadful noise in the next room.

"What's that," asked the country mouse, almost frightened out of his wits.

"O, nothing but the dogs," replied his cousin.

"Well, good-bye, I'm off," said the other.

"What, so soon," exclaimed the city mouse.

"Yes, you may stay here and enjoy yourself and grow fat if you can; but give me my plain country fare in a home that is quiet and safe."

### **The Fox and the Crow.**

A crow stole a piece of cheese and flew into a tree with it in her beak. A fox saw her and planned how he could get the cheese for his breakfast.



He came under the tree and said, "Good morning, mistress crow, what a fine black dress you have on this morning. I always thought you one of the prettiest birds.

"What a sweet voice you have, too; can't you sing a few notes for me?"



"Caw, caw," said the crow, feeling greatly pleased to hear such praise from the fox.

But with the first caw, the cheese fell from her beak, and the wily fox caught it up and ate it; then he laughed and ran home.

What do you suppose the crow thought?

**The Ass and the Lap-Dog.**

A man once owned an ass and a lap-dog. The ass was well treated; he had a good, warm stable, and all the hay and oats he wanted to eat. But he was often used to turn the mill to grind corn, and to carry heavy burdens to the field.

The man was very fond of the dog, and often brought him choice bits to eat, and taught him many tricks. The dog loved his master, too, and would frisk and play about his feet, and sometimes get upon his lap.

One day the ass saw his master playing with the dog, and said to himself "Why must I have such a hard lot and do the work, while the dog can play all the time. I know what I will do; I will go and play with my master. Perhaps he will then love me, and treat me as well as he does the dog."

Soon after this he broke from his stall, and ran into the house. Kicking up his heels, he danced about the room, put his fore feet on his master's shoulders, and even tried to get into his lap.

He broke the table and smashed the dishes, and turned the furniture upside down. The servants heard the hub-bub, and came rushing in. With kicks and cuffs, and blows from a stout stick they soon drove the ass back to his stall.

"It serves me right," said he, "how foolish I was to try to be a lap-dog."

**The Lion and the Mouse.**

While a lion was asleep a mouse ran over his face and awoke him. The lion was angry and was about to kill the mouse when he plead piteously for his life.

“O, please no not kill me, Mr. Lion,” said the mouse, “If you will only spare my life, I am sure I shall be able to repay your kindness some time.”



The lion laughed and let the little captive escape. Soon after this a company of hunters caught the lion, and tied him fast with a strong rope. Then they went to find means to kill him.

The mouse heard the lion roar, and came to see what had happened.

“Never mind,” said the mouse, beginning to gnaw at the rope, “just keep still, and I will soon set you free.”

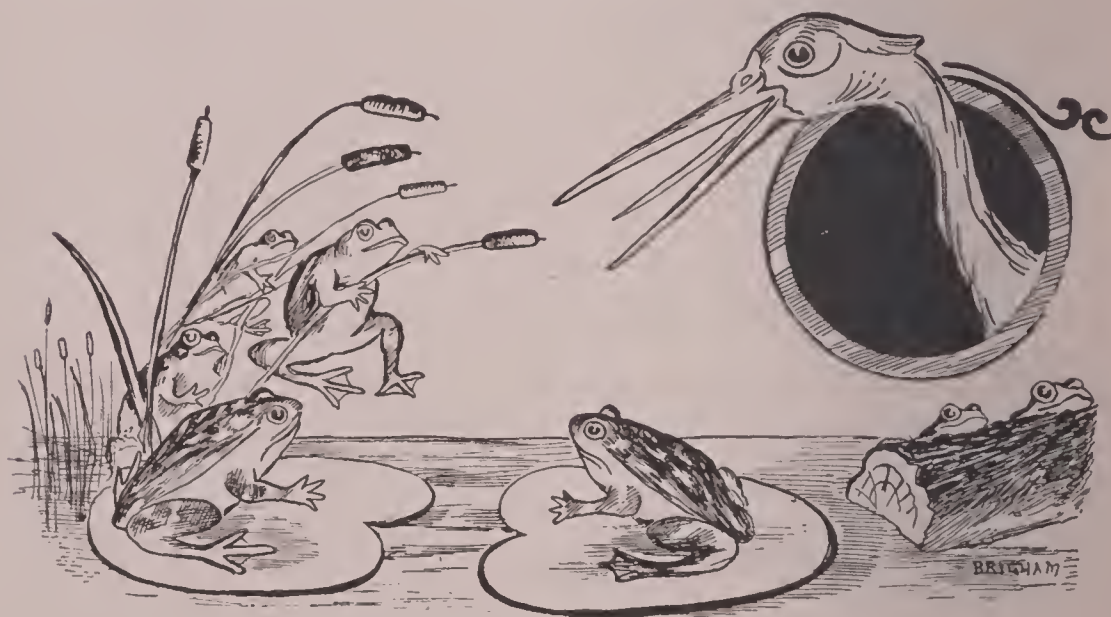


“I should like to know what a little thing like you can do,” roared the lion. But the mouse kept on gnawing the rope, and in a short time cut it off with his sharp teeth, and the lion was free.

“Now you see that I have been able to repay your great kindness to me, and that a mouse has a place in the world as well as a lion.”

### **King Log and King Stork.**

Once upon a time, very long ago, a company of frogs lived in a pool. These frogs were very happy in their quiet pool with cool rushes and flags all around its banks.



But some of them thought they ought to have laws, and some one to rule over them and keep them in order. They sent a petition to Jupiter asking for a king.



“Jupiter,” they cried, “send some one to rule over us and keep us in order.”

Jupiter laughed at their silly request, and threw down a huge log. It fell into the pool ker-splash. The poor frogs were frightened half to death by the noise, and hid in the deepest holes they could find.

They soon saw that the log did not move and, one by one, came out on the bank to look at their king. In a few days they came to despise this king so that they would climb up and sit on him.

After a while they thought Jupiter had not treated them well in sending such a helpless ruler to be their king, so they sent another petition to him.

“O, Jupiter,” they cried again, “send us a real live king, one who can lead us and keep us in order.”

Jupiter was angry at their second request, and sent a stork to rule over them. No sooner had the stork arrived than he began to gobble them up, and he kept on doing this day by day until he had eaten them every one.

Don't you think they would have been happier without a king?

Who was Jupiter?

**The Hares and the Frogs.**

The hares always fled when they heard the footstep of any other animal. They finally became so timid that they resolved to end their lives in order to escape the dread of their enemies.

They set out to cast themselves from a high precipice into the lake below. As they approached the water in such large numbers, they so frightened the frogs upon the bank that they rushed helter skelter into the water for safety.

“Stay,” exclaimed an old hare, “things are not so bad after all, the frogs are more timid than we are.”

However unhappy we may be, we can usually find some one who is in a worse condition.

**The Fox and the Crane.**

The fox and the crane became good friends, and the fox invited the crane to dine with him. He provided nothing but soup for dinner, and poured this into a shallow dish.

The fox could easily lap up the soup, but, as the crane could only get the end of his long bill into the plate, he finished the meal as hungry as when he began.

His attempt to eat the soup greatly amused the fox, but he pretended to apologize by saying that he was sorry the crane did not enjoy his dinner.

“O, do not apologize,” said the crane, “but come and sup with me soon.” “With pleasure,” replied the fox.

The crane provided minced meat for supper, and served it in a deep jar with a long narrow neck. He could reach his long bill into the jar with ease and eat all he wanted.



But as the fox could not get even the end of his nose into the neck of the jar, he had to content himself with lapping up the crumbs that fell from the crane's bill.

“I will not apologize for the supper,” said the crane, “for sometimes one cunning trick deserves another.”

**The Wolf and the Kid.**

A kid had climbed to the roof of a high house. Looking down he saw a wolf in the yard.

“Ho, you thief and murderer,” cried the kid, “go back to your den; how do you dare to come where honest people live?”

“Curse away, you young chatterbox,” said the wolf, “it is easy to be brave as long as you know that you are in a safe place.”

**The Jay and the Peacock.**

A jay wandered to a yard where some peacocks lived, and found some of their feathers, and tied them to his tail.

“Now I can be a peacock,” thought the jay, and he began to strut around the yard. The peacocks soon saw that he was a cheat, and began to peck at him and pulled out all his false feathers.

He then went back to the jays, but they had seen what he tried to do, and drove him away.

**The Frog and the Ox.**

An ox came to a pool to drink and trod upon a brood of young frogs, and crushed one of them to death. The others hopped to their mother and told her what had happened.



"O, mother," said one, "a great monster as big as a mountain, with two sharp horns, a long tail, and hoofs, came to the water and stepped on our little brother, and pushed him way down into the mud out of sight. I am sure he must be killed."

"That must be farmer Brown's ox; he is not so large as you think," said the mother. "He may be taller than I but I am sure I can make myself as broad." So she began to puff herself out.

"Was he as big as that?" inquired the mother, having puffed herself out almost as large as she could.

"O, larger, a hundred times larger," exclaimed the little frogs.

"As big as this?" gasped the mother, stretching herself still more. "Yes, much larger," said the children.

So the old frog tried again, and puffed and puffed until she could do so no longer. Then she tried to ask again, "was he as big as—," but just then she burst.

### **Androcles.**

Androcles was a slave. He did not like slavery, so one day escaped from his master and ran to the forest.

While looking for a place where he might hide, he came upon a lion. He was frightened and

started to run, but as the lion did not try to follow, he came back.

As Androcles drew near, the lion held up his paw. Androcles saw that it was swollen and bloody. He took the paw in his hand, and found a large thorn in it. This seemed to be giving the lion much pain, so he drew it out and bound up the wound.

The lion was soon able to put his paw on the ground again. He then came up to Androcles,



and took him to his den and brought him meat every day.

After a while the lion and slave were captured by the king's hunters, and the slave was condemned to be thrown to the lion after he had been several days without food.

The king and all his officers came to see the cruel lion tear Androcles to pieces. The door of

the lion's den was opened, and he bounded towards his victim with a loud roar.

But as soon as he came near Androcles, and saw who he was, the lion began to lick his hands and face, and fawn around him like a huge dog.

The king was surprised at this, and commanded Androcles to be brought before him. The slave told his story, and it so moved the king that he gave Androcles his liberty, and let the lion go back to the forest.

### **The Bat, the Birds and the Beasts.**

The birds and the beasts were going to war to decide which should rule. The bat, not knowing which side would win, was afraid to join either.

"Come with us," said the birds. "No, I'm a beast," said the bat.

"You belong to us," said the beasts. "O, no, I am a bird, cried the bat.

The dispute was settled without a war, but both the birds and the beasts remembered what the bat had said.

When he tried to join the birds, they drove him away, saying, "You're a beast, you're a beast, we won't have you with us."

Then he went to join the beasts, but they said, "O, you are a bird; go and join the birds, we don't want you."



As the bat could not join either the beasts or the birds, he had to hide in caves during the day, and come forth only when the other animals were asleep. And the fable says this is why the bat flies at night.

### **The Hart and the Hunter.**

A hart, as he was drinking from the river, saw his image in the water.

“What a beautiful head and what noble antlers I have,” said he. “I wish I had legs more worthy of carrying such a head. How crooked and slender my legs are; I am quite ashamed of them.”



Just then a hunter sent an arrow whizzing past him. The stag bounded swiftly away on the legs he so despised, but his antlers caught in the



branches of some low trees and held him fast, so he was taken by the hunter.

“Alas, alas,” he exclaimed, “my legs that I so despised were my only means of safety, while my antlers that I thought so beautiful have cost me my life.”

The most beautiful things are not always the most useful.

### **The Dog and the Wolf.**

A half-starved wolf met a house-dog on the road one day.

“Ah ha, cousin,” said the dog, “I knew your roving life would keep you in want.”

“How is it,” said the wolf, “that you are always fat and sleek when I am always hungry, though I hunt all the time.”

“Why,” replied the dog, “I do not have to hunt for my food. All I have to do is to guard the house for my master, and the whole family pet me and bring me all the food I can eat. If you will come and live with me you can fare as well as I do.”

“I should like that, and will go with you at once,” said the wolf. As they trotted along the road, the wolf saw that the hair was worn off from a place on the dog’s neck.

“What did that?” asked the wolf. “O, that is only a place where my collar chafes my neck a

little; it is nothing, I soon get used to it," replied the dog.

"Do you mean to say that you are ever tied up," exclaimed the wolf. "O, yes, I am tied up during the night, but can go where I please during the day," replied the dog.

"If that is the case, farewell," said the wolf. "Better free though I starve, than be a slave amid plenty."

### **The Fox and the Grapes.**

A fox had been all day without food, when he came to a grapevine loaded with fine clusters of



nice, ripe grapes. The grapes were so high that the fox could not reach them.

He tried every trick he could think of, but each one failed. When he saw that he could not succeed, he turned away and said, "The grapes are sour, anyhow, and I would not eat them if I could."

It may be that from this fable we get the old saying, "There is good reason why Jack did not eat his supper."

### **The Horse, the Hunter and the Stag.**

The horse had a large plain for his pasture. A stag came to share it with him. This the horse did not like, for he was selfish and wanted the pasture all to himself.

One day the horse asked the hunter to help him drive the stag away. "I will help you," said the hunter, "but you must first let me put this piece of iron in your mouth so that I can guide you, and place this saddle on your back so I can sit firmly in it. Then I will take my bow and arrow and shoot the stag when you carry me near him."

The horse consented to this and the stag was soon killed.

"Now take these things off and let me go free," said the horse.

"Not so fast," replied the hunter. "I have just learned how useful you can be, and prefer to keep you in my service."

**The Lion and the Statue.**

A man and a lion were discussing which were the stronger, men or lions. "Men are stronger because they are wiser than lions," said the man. "Come with me and I will prove it."

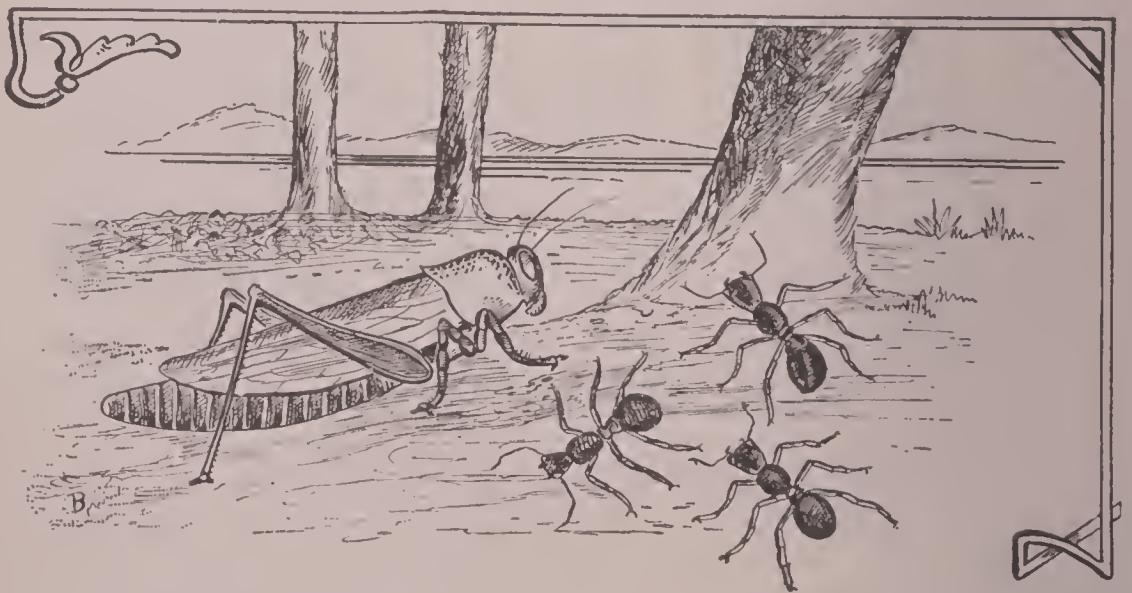
So they went to the park, where he showed the lion a statue of Hercules overcoming a lion by tearing his jaws apart.

"That proves nothing," said the lion, "for man made the statue, and it is very easy to make things appear as we wish them to be."

Who was Hercules?

**The Ant and the Grasshopper.**

The ants and the grasshoppers lived in a large field. The ants toiled each day to lay up a store



of food for the winter. But the lazy grasshoppers



hopped and sang and laughed at the ants for working so hard.

One bright, winter day, as the ants were drying their grain in the sun, a grasshopper came along. He was almost dead from hunger so he thought he would beg some food from the ants.

"Please give me some of your grain, I am almost starved," said he.

"Why haven't you food of your own?" asked a wise old ant.

"O, I was hopping and singing all the summer long; I had no time to gather food," said the grasshopper.

"Well," rejoined the ant, "If you hopped all through the summer, you may as well hop supperless to bed through the winter, for we ants neither borrow nor lend."

### **The Fox and the Cat.**

The fox was boasting to the cat of his cunning. "I have more than a hundred ways for escaping from my enemies," said he.

"I have only one," said the cat, "but with that I feel quite safe."

Just then they heard a pack of hounds coming.

"This is my plan," said puss, and she scamp-ered up a tree and hid among the branches.

The fox did not know which of his hundred

plans to choose, and while he was trying to decide the hounds caught him and gave him to the hunters.

Which had the better plan?

### **The Dog in the Manger.**

A dog crawled into an ox's manger and lay on the hay. When the ox came tired and hungry from his day's work, the dog began to growl and snap at him.

"Do you want to eat this hay?" asked the ox.



"No, I never thought of such a thing," replied the dog.

"I want it for my supper," said the ox.

"O, go away, snarled the dog, "I want to sleep."

“What a selfish fellow,” murmured the ox, as he turned away; “he neither eats the hay himself nor lets those who can.”

### **The Shepherd's Boy.**

A shepherd's boy was left to watch a flock of sheep near a village. He thought it would be fine sport to play a joke on the neighbors, so he cried “wolf, wolf!”

The neighbors came running to help him but he laughed, and when they saw the joke he had played they laughed too.

He was so well pleased at his first joke that he thought he would try it again, so he called “wolf, wolf!” the second time. But when the neighbors came rushing out the second time to find that it was only a joke, they were angry.

After a time the wolf did come. Then the boy called for help in earnest, but the people said, “He is trying to play another joke on us,” and did not go to his assistance.

The wolf killed the boy, and then ate as many sheep as he wished.

### **The Nurse and the Wolf.**

A hungry wolf, prowling around for his breakfast, came to a cottage that stood near the forest. As he reached the yard, he heard the nurse say

to a crying baby, "If you don't stop crying this minute I'll throw you out the window to the wolf."

"Now I am sure of a good breakfast," thought the wolf, and he lay in the bush for many a long hour waiting for the baby to be thrown from the window.

But the baby fell asleep, and towards evening the wolf heard the nurse say, "You are a little dear, and if that naughty old wolf comes around we will kill him."

Upon this the wolf started home feeling very hungry and cross. On the way he met the fox, who asked him why he looked so sober.

"O, don't speak to me," replied the wolf, "I have gone hungry all day because I was foolish enough to believe what a nurse said to a crying baby."

### **The Tortoise and the Birds.**

The tortoise thought he would like to go and live with the birds. He promised the eagle a large reward if she would take him to her nest.

So the eagle seized him in her talons, and started for her nest, which was in the top of a tall pine. On the way she met the crow.

"Tortoise is fine eating," said the crow.

"The shell is too hard," said the eagle.



"The rocks will break that," replied the crow. Then the eagle let the tortoise fall. His shell



was broken and the birds made a good meal on him. Where does the tortoise live?

### **The Two Crabs.**

One bright, sunny day a little crab and his mother went for a walk on the sea shore.

"My son, why do you take such a one sided gait," said the mother. "You are very awkward; it looks much better to walk straight forward."

"Show me how, mother, and I will try," said the young crab.

"This is the way," said the mother. Forgetting she could not walk straight ahead herself, she started off, but her legs carried her to the right.

"No, this is the way," she repeated, and started again. However, this time her legs took her to the left.



"Well, mother," said the son, "when you can walk the way you wish me to, I will try to follow you."

Perhaps this is why people say, "If you wish to lead one in a certain way, you must sometimes go that way yourself."

### **The Ass in the Lion's Skin.**

An ass found a lion's skin which some hunters had spread out to dry. He put it on, and roamed through field and forest frightening man and beast.

This made him feel very proud, and when he saw the fox, he said, "I will roar at him and give

him a terrible fright." He then began to bray, but the fox laughed at him.

"O, you foolish fellow," he cried, "I know your voice too well to believe you are anything but a donkey."

### **The Two Travelers and the Bear.**

Two travelers, passing through a forest, suddenly met a bear. One of them sprang into a tree, and lay concealed among the branches.

The other threw himself on the ground, and lay as still as though he were dead. He had



heard it said that a bear would not touch a dead body.

The bear felt of him with his nose and smelt him all over, and then went on his way. When he was at a safe distance, the man in the tree came down.



"I saw the bear whispering to you," he said to his friend, "what did he say?"

"He told me," replied the other, "never to trust a coward in the time of danger."

### **The Fisherman and the Little Fish.**

A fisherman, after toiling all day, caught one small fish. The fish wriggled and panted, and begged for his life.

"Of what use can I be to you, see how small I am," said the fish, "throw me back into the river, I pray you; then I shall grow and become a large fish, and when you catch me again I shall be worth much more to you."

"No," said the fisherman, "Now I have you in my hands I shall keep you. I should be foolish indeed to throw away the small fish that I have in hopes of catching a larger one by and by."

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

### **Mercury and the Workman.**

A workman was felling timber near a deep river, and by accident lost his axe in the stream. He sat down and began to lament over his misfortune, for the loss of his axe would keep him from earning a living.



Mercury came along and asked why he wept. The workman then told his story. Mercury plunged into the stream and brought up a golden axe, and asked if that were the one he had lost.

But the honest workman told Mercury that it was not. Again he plunged into the water and brought up a silver axe, and asked if that were his. The workman said it was not.



With the third plunge Mercury brought up the axe that had been lost. The workman claimed it, and was filled with joy at its recovery.

Mercury was so pleased with the man's honesty that he gave him the gold and silver axes as well as his own. When the workman returned to his house he told his companions what had happened,

and one of them thought he would try to secure the same good fortune.

So he went to the river and threw in his axe. Then he sat down on the bank to weep, when Mercury appeared, just as he had hoped he would.

The man told his story, and Mercury plunged into the stream and brought up a golden axe as before. He asked the workman if that were the axe he had lost.

The workman seized it greedily, and stoutly declared it was the very axe he had dropped into the water. This dishonesty so offended Mercury that he took away the golden axe, and refused to get the one thrown into the river.

Honesty is the best policy.

Who was Mercury?

### **The Man and the Satyr.**

One cold, winter night a man lost his way in the forest. As he was wandering about he came upon a satyr, who promised to care for him and show him on his way in the morning.

On their way to the satyr's home, the man put his hands to his mouth and blew upon them.

"Why do you do that?" asked the satyr.

"My hands are numb with cold," replied the man, "and my breath will warm them."

The satyr prepared some soup for supper, and

set it before his guest smoking hot. Finding his soup too hot, the man began to blow it. "Why do you do that?" again asked the satyr.

"Because the soup is too hot and my breath will cool it," replied the man.

"Be off with you then," exclaimed the satyr, "for I will have nothing to do with one who blows hot and cold with the same breath."

### **The Laborer and the Nightingale.**

After a laborer had retired to rest one night, a nightingale came and sang at his window. The



song so charmed the laborer that he set a trap and caught the bird.



“Now I will put you in a cage and have you to sing for me every night,” said the laborer.

“But we nightingales never sing in a cage,” replied the bird.

“Then I will have you served up on toast for my breakfast, for I have heard that a nightingale makes a dainty morsel when served that way.”

“Nay, do not kill me,” pleaded the nightingale; “only let me go, and I will tell you three things that will be of great value to you.”

“Now what are they?” said the man, letting the little songster escape.

And this is what the nightingale said.

“The first thing is, never believe the promise of a captive; the second is, keep what you have; and the third is, never sorrow over what is lost forever.”

### **The Dog, the Cock and the Fox.**

A dog and a cock became great friends and agreed to travel together. When night came on they took shelter in a thick wood.

The cock flew into a tree and perched on one of the branches, while the dog found a bed on some leaves in the hollow of the trunk.

“Cock-a-doo-dle-d-o-o,” crowed the cock several times as loud as he could at the break of day. A fox heard him and thought he would make sure of a good breakfast.



So the cunning fox came under the tree and asked the cock if he would not come down that he might become acquainted with one who had such a fine voice.

"My good friend," replied the cock, "I am not ready to go down just now, but if you would like to come up, go around the tree and awaken my porter and he will let you in."

When the fox came to the hollow of the tree the dog sprang upon him and tore him in pieces.

As the cock looked down upon the scene he exclaimed, "I think, Mr. Fox, that you found some one as cunning as you were."

### **Hercules and the Wagoner.**

A carter was once driving a heavy wagon along



a country road, when the wheels sank into a rut

and stuck fast. The carter fell on his knees and began to call loudly on Hercules for help.

When Hercules heard him, he exclaimed, "Don't sprawl there bawling, man, but get up and put your shoulder to the wheel. The gods help those who help themselves."

### **The Man, the Boy and the Donkey.**

A man and his son with their donkey were on their way to market. They met a countryman who said, "What is a donkey for, pray, if not to ride."

So the man put his son on the donkey's back, and walked along by his side. They soon passed through the village, and one of a group of bystanders called out, "Just see that lazy boy on the donkey. If he had good manners, he would let his father ride."

The man then ordered the boy off and got on the donkey himself. But they had not gone far when they met a couple of women, and one of them exclaimed, "Shame on that great lazy man to make his little son walk."

On hearing this the man took the boy up in front of him, and they came to town in this way. But the people began to laugh and jeer.

"What are you laughing at?" asked the man.

"Aren't you ashamed of yourselves," said one, "to half kill that poor donkey by both riding him?"

Both jumped off, but did not know what to do next. They thought a long time, and then found a long pole and tied the donkey's feet to it and started to cross the bridge, carrying the donkey.

Before they got across the donkey kicked one of his feet loose and jumped around so that he fell into the river and was drowned. An old man who had been watching them said, "Try to please all and you will please no one."

### **The Fox Without a Tail.**

A fox once caught his tail in a trap and lost it. He felt so ashamed, and was so afraid of being laughed at by the other foxes that he hid in a cave for a long time.



He became very lonely, and thought he could not live in the cave any longer, so he called a large number of foxes together and advised them to cut off their tails.



He said that the tail was very heavy and always in the way, and that they might be caught by it at any time. He was much happier without a tail.

"All that may be true, my good friend," replied a sly old fox, "but I think you would not advise us to cut off our tails if you had not lost your own."

Some say misery likes company.

### **Belling the Cat.**

The mice suffered so much from their old enemy, the cat, that they called a council to plan how they might get rid of her. They talked over many plans, but none of them seemed good.

A young mouse then arose and said, "I have a plan which I think will succeed. We all know that our greatest danger lies in the sly manner in which Puss steals upon us. Let us get a little bell and tie it on the cat's neck. Every time she moves the bell will ring, and we shall hear her in season to run away."

All agreed that this was just the plan until a wise old mouse asked, "But who will tie on the bell?" Each little mouse looked at the other, but no one answered a word.

Pretty soon they began, one by one, to steal away to their holes, and the council broke up with the question, "Who will bell the cat?"



**The Hare and the Tortoise.**

The hare ridiculed the tortoise for his short legs and slow gait. The tortoise laughed and replied, "Though you are so nimble and swift, I can beat you in a race."

This the hare was certain the tortoise could never do, so she invited him to race with her for a



wager. The fox was to chose the course and fix the goal.

When the race began the hare darted swiftly away, and was so sure of winning that she thought she could stop on the way and rest. But she fell asleep and rested longer than she intended.

The tortoise never thought of stopping, but kept jogging along until he reached the goal.

When the hare awoke she started on as fast as she could run, but the tortoise had already reached

the goal, and when the hare arrived she found him taking a nap. So the tortoise won the wager.

“The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.”

### **The Bundle of Sticks.**

An old man had three sons who were always quarreling among themselves. When he was about to die he called his sons around him and gave them a bundle of sticks, asking them to break it.

The eldest tried first, but the sticks were too strong for him. Then the second son tried, and the third, but neither could break the bundle.

The father then had the bundle untied, and gave a single stick to each. “Now break it,” he said, and each easily broke his stick.

“My sons,” said the old man, “learn from this that as long as you love each other and are united, nothing can harm you. But if you continue to quarrel you will destroy your own usefulness.”

### **The Cat Maiden.**

The gods fell to disputing whether an animal could change its nature or not. Jupiter said it could; Venus said it could not.

To prove his statement, Jupiter changed a cat into a beautiful maiden. A young man soon fell in love with her and took her for his bride.

As they sat at dinner in their home one day, the gods looked down upon them.

“Just see how well the bride appears,” said Jupiter; “you would never suspect she was once a cat.”

“Just wait a moment,” said Venus, sending a mouse into the room.

As soon as the bride saw the mouse she jumped up and tried to pounce upon it and eat it.

“You see,” said Venus, “that nature will come out.”

Who was Venus?

### **The Milkmaid and Her Pail.**

Mattie, the milkmaid, was on her way to town to sell her pail of milk. She set the pail on her head, and fell to thinking what she would do with the money it would bring.

“I can sell this milk for enough money to buy three hundred eggs,” she thought. “I will set the eggs, and the chickens will be ready for market at the time they will bring the highest price; there will be at least two hundred and fifty of them.

“I shall then have enough money to buy me a nice, new frock, and the prettiest hat I can find.

“I know this will make Mollie Wood and the other girls jealous, but I don’t care. If they look



cross at me, I will just toss my head this way, and let them see—”

With the toss of her head down came the pail, and all the milk was spilt.

Poor Mattie went home sobbing, and told her mother what had happened.



“I was thinking so much about my new frock and hat that I forgot all about the pail on my head,” she said.

After listening to her story, her mother said, “My daughter, never count your chickens before they are hatched.”

### **The Fox and the Goat.**

A fox fell into a deep well and was unable to jump out. A goat came to the well to drink, and, seeing the fox, asked him if the water was good.



The fox praised the water, and urged the goat to come down and drink. The goat was very thirsty, and jumped in without stopping to see how deep the well was.

The fox then told him the well was so deep that neither could get out by himself. "But," said he, "if you will stand on your hind feet and let me run up your back, I can get out. Then I will help you."

The goat thought this a good plan, and stood up and reached as near the top of the well as he could. Then the fox ran up his back and escaped.

"Now turn about and help me," called the goat as the fox started to run off.

"O, I couldn't think of it," answered the fox; "next time, look before you leap."

### **The Hare with Many Friends.**

The hare was so gentle and pleasant that she became very popular with the beasts, and all claimed to be her friends.

One day she heard the hounds coming and thought she would ask them to help her escape.

She first went to the horse and asked him to take her on his back. "I am very sorry," replied the horse, "but I have work to do for my master. I think the ox will help you."

The hare then asked the ox if he would not

drive the hounds away with his horns. He excused himself by saying that he must go and meet a lady, but thought the goat would help her.

So she went to the goat. "I should be glad to do anything I can for you," said the goat, "but I fear my back would hurt you if I should let you get on it. I am sure the ram can serve you much better."

But the ram said he had rather be excused, as hounds had been known to eat sheep as well as hares. The hare at last went to the calf, but the calf said that he did not wish to be responsible for her safety when so many older people had refused.

By this time the hounds were near at hand, and the hare took to her heels, and luckily escaped.

What do you learn from this fable?

### **The Monkey and the Fishermen.**

Some fishermen came to the river and cast in their nets. A monkey perched in a high tree watched them closely. After awhile the men went home to dinner and left their nets on the bank.

"Now I'll catch some fish," said the monkey. He came down and tried to do just as he had seen the men do. He picked up the net and turned it over two or three times, and then threw it into the stream. But in handling the net he became

entangled in such a manner as to be dragged into the water, and was drowned.



“It serves me right,” he said to himself, “I had no business to handle the nets; I am not a fisherman.”

### **The Fox and the Monkey.**

A monkey once danced before the beasts and pleased them so well that they made him their king. The fox envied the monkey, for he wanted to be king.

One day the fox found a piece of meat in a trap so he went to the monkey and said, “I have found a rich treasure, but have kept it for our king; come and get it.”



King Monkey did not suspect the fox was playing him a trick, and went carelessly to the trap and seized the meat. Of course he was caught. He then accused the fox of purposely leading him into a trap.

“Well,” replied the fox, “if you haven’t brains enough to know a trap when you see it, how are you ever going to be king over all the beasts?”

Only the wise should attempt to rule.

### **The Thief and His Mother.**

A boy once stole a book from his school-mate and brought it home to his mother. Instead of punishing him, she praised him for being so shrewd.



He next stole a cloak and brought her, when she praised him still more.

The boy kept on stealing until he became a man. At last he was caught in the very act, and



was condemned to death, for this was in an old country and a long time ago.

His mother followed him to the place of execution weeping and beating her breast. When the son saw her, he said that he wished to whisper to her. She came close to him, and he stooped down and bit off her ear.

The mother then called him a cruel and wicked son, whereupon he replied, "If you had punished me when I first stole the book, I should not have come to this. Now I must die a disgraceful death."

The woman then complained to the priest, but he said that her son was right; for if she had taught him to be honest when he was a boy, he would not have been a thief when he became a man.

### **The Mice and the Weasels.**

The mice and the weasels waged a perpetual war, and much blood was shed. The weasels were always the victors.

The mice thought they were defeated because they had no leaders, so they chose the oldest and wisest mice for generals and captains.

The generals arranged the army in companies and regiments, and drilled the soldiers for the fight. When all was ready they sounded the call to battle.

The generals bound straw on their heads that they might be easily seen, but the battle had scarcely begun when the mice were routed and scampered off to their holes. The generals and captains could not get away on account of the ornaments on their heads, and the weasels caught and ate every one of them.

The more honor, the greater the danger.

### **The Bee and Jupiter.**

A bee went to Mount Olympus, the home of Jupiter, to present him with some honey from her combs. The honey was so nice and pleased Jupiter so well that he promised the bee anything she might ask of him.



Now this bee was the queen of the hive, and she thought it would be well if all bees could have some means of defending themselves against man when he came to get their honey.

So she said to Jupiter, "Give me, I pray thee, a sting, that when man comes to get my honey I may kill him."

Jupiter loved man, and the request displeased him, but he could not refuse on account of his promise.

"Your request shall be granted," he replied, "but it will be at the risk of your own life, for when you use your sting, it shall remain in the wound you make, and you will die from the loss of it."

One cannot injure others without injuring himself.

### **The Oak and the Reeds.**

A giant oak grew on the bank of a stream, and many little reeds clustered about its roots.

The oak boasted of its size and strength, and asked the reeds why they did not send their roots down deep into the earth and rear their heads like him.

"We are very well contented where we are," said the reeds. "Besides, we feel safer down here than we should up so high."

"I am so strong," replied the oak, "that nothing can harm me, and I am much safer than you."

In a few days a hurricane arose and uprooted the oak, while the reeds, bending before it, were unharmed.

“Now you see,” said the reeds “that a humble position is a safe one.”

### **The Ant and the Dove.**

An ant went to the bank of the river to drink, and was carried away by the current. She was in great danger of being drowned, when a dove that was sitting on the branch of a tree near by, dropped a leaf so that it fell at her side. The ant climbed on the leaf, and was soon safe on dry land.



A bird catcher came under the tree and began to lay his snare for the dove. The ant stung him on the heel, and caused him to give such a start that he frightened the dove away.

This is how the little ant showed that she could repay a kindness.



**Jaqueline.**

To begin with, Jaqueline was a monkey. When she was about two and a half years old, she was brought to live in the Garden of Plants in Paris.

She was gentle and kind, and very playful, so she soon became a great favorite with all the visitors. Jaqueline had a good memory, and remembered the friends who came to see her often. She would run up and caress them, and in other ways try to tell how glad she was to see them.



Like all monkeys, Jaqueline tried to do everything she saw others do. One day a gentleman who came to see her laid his gloves on the table. Jaqueline picked them up and tried to put them on. As she tried to put the left-hand glove on her right hand, she did not succeed. The gentleman

then showed her the mistake, and she could always put the gloves on right after that.

An artist drew Jaqueline's picture, and she seemed very much surprised when he showed it to her. She wanted to draw, too.

The artist gave her some paper and a pencil, and she seated herself at the table like a little girl at school, and began to mark. She drew some lines and figures, and would have been amused with this work for a long time, but she bore on so heavily that she broke the point off the pencil every time she made a mark.

Jaqueline had seen the artist put the pencil to his lips, so she, like a good many little boys and girls that I have known, put her pencil in her mouth. She bit it so hard that she bit the end off, and the artist had to take it away.

Jaqueline had a dog and cat that she was very fond of. She always let them sleep with her, one on each side. But she let them know that she was mistress, and when they did not obey, often punished them as a mother might her children.

Poor Jaqueline saw people wash their hands and faces every morning, and thought she must do the same.

Now, while clear, cold water is good for boys and girls to wash in every morning, it is not good for a monkey, because a monkey is not accustomed

to it. Jaqueline took cold from so much washing, and died of consumption.

How would you like Jaqueline for a pet?

### **Tommy.**

Tommy was a little boy monkey, and came from Africa. When he was very young a cruel hunter shot his mother, and brought Tommy to the coast. There he was sold to an English gentleman, and taken on board a ship to be carried to his master's home.

Tommy soon became very much attached to his master and an old lady who took care of him. This lady dressed him in a frock, and he then looked very much like a little, dried-up old man.

Whenever the lady sat down, Tommy would go and climb into her lap and want to play. He was very fond of picking at the ruff on the neck of her dress. But the lady would say, "No, no, Tommy, you must not pull the pin out of my collar." He would then sit awhile and amuse himself by pulling his toes, just like a baby.

When the lady tried to put him down, he would cling to her and cry, and when she started to leave the room, he would hold on to her dress and walk beside her still crying. She would then give him a raw potato and he would go away happy.



One day when Tommy was playing about the room, his master placed a mirror on the floor so he could look in it. As soon as Tommy saw his image in the mirror, he stopped playing and stood quite still, looking at it for several minutes.



He showed very plainly by his looks that he wondered where that monkey came from and how he got into the room. If monkeys could only talk I think he would have asked a great many questions about it, don't you?

After looking at his image for a while, Tommy looked up at his master with an expression which seemed to say, "Please tell me where he came



from." Then he came slowly up to the glass and placed his lips to it as if he would kiss the monkey on the other side. Then he looked behind the mirror, and seemed surprised not to find any one there.

Tommy liked to swing as well as any boy, and would sit in the swing for hours with his hands hold of the ropes, just as you or I would.

Tommy was quick to learn, and his master taught him many tricks while he was crossing the ocean. He could open a box, eat with a fork, and drink from a wine-glass as well as a man. He was also full of fun, and when given the freedom of the ship, would play more pranks on the sailors than six boys could ever think of.

Which do you like better, Tommy or Jaqueline?

### **The Queen Bee.**

Two kings' sons once started to seek adventures, and fell into a wild, reckless way of living, and gave up all thoughts of going home again. Their third brother, who was called Whitling, had remained behind and started off to seek them. When at last he found them, they jeered at his simplicity in thinking that he could make his way in the world, while they who were so much more clever were unsuccessful. But they all three went on together until they came to an ant-hill, which the two eld-

est brothers wished to stir up that they might see the little ants hurry about in their fright and carry off their eggs. But Whitling said, "Leave the little creatures alone, I will not suffer them to be disturbed."

And they went on farther until they came to a lake, where a number of ducks were swimming about. The two oldest brothers wanted to catch a couple and cook them, but Whitling would not allow it, and said, "Leave the creatures alone, I will not suffer them to be killed."

And then they came to a bee's-nest in a tree, and there was so much honey in it that it overflowed and ran down the trunk. The two eldest brothers then wanted to make a fire beneath the tree, that the bees might be killed by the smoke, and then they could get at the honey. But Whitling prevented them, saying,

"Leave the little creatures alone, I will not suffer them to be killed."

At last the three brothers came to a castle where there were in the stables many horses standing, all of stone, and the brothers went through all the rooms until they came to a door at the end secured with three locks. In the middle of the door was a small opening through which they could look into the room. They saw a little grey-haired man sitting at a table. They called out to

him once, twice, and he did not hear, but at the third time he got up, undid the locks, and came out. Without speaking a word, he led them to a table loaded with all sorts of good things, and when they had eaten and drunk, he showed to each his bed-chamber.

The next morning the little gray man came to the eldest brother and brought him to a table of stone. On this table were written three things, telling how the castle could be delivered from its enchantment. The first thing was, that in the wood under the moss lay the pearls belonging to the princess—a thousand in number—and they were to be sought for and collected. If he who should undertake the task had not finished it by sunset,—if but one pearl was missing,—he must be turned to stone. so the eldest brother went out, and searched all day, but at the end of it he had only found one hundred; just what was said on the table of stone came to pass and he was turned into stone. The second brother undertook the adventure next day, but it fared with him no better than with the first; he found two hundred pearls, and was turned into stone.

And so at last it was Whitling's turn, and he began to search in the moss. It was a very tedious business to find the pearls, and he grew so out of heart that he sat down on a stone and began



to weep. As he was sitting thus, up came the ant-king with five thousand ants, whose lives had been saved through Whitling's pity. It was not very long before the little insects had collected all the pearls and put them in a heap.

Now the second thing ordered by the table of stone was to get the key of the princess's sleeping chamber out of the lake.



When Whitling came to the lake, the ducks whose lives he had saved came swimming, and dived below and brought up the key from the bottom.

The third thing that had to be done was the most difficult, and that was to choose out the youngest and loveliest of the three princesses, as they lay sleeping.

All bore a perfect resemblance to each other, but before they went to sleep each had eaten a dif-



ferent kind of sweetmeat. The eldest a piece of sugar, the second a little syrup, and the third a spoonful of honey. Now the queen-bee of those bees that Witling had protected from the fire came at this moment. She tried the lips of all three, and settled on those of the one that had eaten the honey, so the king's son knew which to choose.

The spell was then broken; every one awoke from his stony sleep, and each took his right form again. Witling married the youngest and loveliest princess, and became king after her father's death.

### **Six Soldiers of Fortune.**

There was once a man who was a Jack-of-all-trades. He had served in the war, and was a brave and bold soldier. At the end of the war he was sent about his business with only three farthings for his pay.

"I am not going to stand this," he said. "Wait till I find the right man to help me, and the king shall give me all the treasures of his kingdom."

Then he went into the forest, and saw a man standing by six trees which he had rooted up as if they had been stalks of corn. And he asked him if he would be his man, and go with him.

"All right," answered the other. "Just let me take this bit of wood home to my father and mother." He then took one of the trees and bound it round

the other five, and carried the bundle off on his shoulder. Then he went along with his leader, who said, "Two such men can stand against the world."

When they had gone on a little while, they came to a huntsman who was kneeling on one knee and taking careful aim with his rifle.

"Huntsman," said the leader, "what are you aiming at?"

"Two miles from here," he answered, "there sits a fly on the bough of an oak-tree, I mean to put a bullet in its left eye."

"Oh, come along with me," said the leader; "three of us together can stand against the world."

The huntsman was quite willing to go with him, and so they went on till they came to seven windmills, whose sails were going round briskly, and yet there was no wind blowing from any quarter, and not a leaf stirred.

"Well," said the leader, "I cannot think what ails the windmills, turning without wind." He went on with his followers about two miles farther, and then they came to a man sitting up in a tree, holding one nostril and blowing with the other.

"Now then," said the leader, "what are you doing up there?"

"Two miles from here," he answered, "there are seven windmills; I am blowing, and they are going round."

"Oh, go with me," cried the leader, "four of us together can stand against the world."

So the blower got down and went with them, and after a time they came to a man standing on one leg, and the other had been taken off and was lying near him.

"You seem to have found a handy way of resting yourself," said the leader to the man.

"I am a runner," answered he, "and in order to keep myself from going too fast I have taken off a leg, for when I run with both, I go faster than a bird can fly."

"Oh, go with me," cried the leader, "five of us together may well stand against the world."

So he went with them all together, and it was not long before they met a man with a little hat on, and he wore it just over one ear.

"Manners! manners!" said the leader; "with your hat like that, you look like a jack-fool!"

"I dare not put it straight," answered the other, "if I did, there would be such a terrible frost that the very birds would be frozen and fall dead from the sky to the ground."

"Oh, come with me," said the leader; "we six together may well stand against the whole world."

## II.

So the six went on until they came to a town where the king had caused it to be made known.

that whoever would run a race with his daughter and win it might become her husband, but that whoever lost must lose his head into the bargain. And the leader came forward and said one of his men should run for him.

“Then,” said the king, “his life, too, must be put in pledge, and if he fails, his head and yours, too, must fall.”

When this was quite settled and agreed upon, the leader called the runner, and strapped his second leg on to him.

“Now, look out,” said he, “and take care that we win.”

It had been agreed that the one who should bring water first from a far distant brook should be accounted winner. Now the king’s daughter and the runner each took a pitcher, and they started both at the same time; but in one moment, when the king’s daughter had gone but a very little way, the runner was out of sight, for his running was as if the wind rushed by. In a short time he reached the brook, filled his pitcher full of water, and turned back again.

About half-way home, however, he set down his pitcher and lay down on the ground to sleep. But in order to awake soon again by not lying too soft, he had taken a horse’s skull which lay near and placed it under his head for a pillow.



In the meanwhile the king's daughter, who really was a good runner, good enough to beat an ordinary man, had reached the brook, and filled her pitcher, and was hastening with it back again, when she saw the runner lying asleep.

"The day is mine," said she with much joy, and she emptied his pitcher and hastened on. And now all had been lost but for the huntsman who was standing on the castle wall, and with his keen eyes saw all that happened.

"We must not be outdone by the king's daughter," said he, and he loaded his rifle and took so good an aim that he shot the horse's skull from under the runner's head without doing him any harm. And the runner awoke and jumped up, and saw his pitcher standing empty and the king's daughter far on her way home. But, not losing courage, he ran swiftly to the brook, filled it again with water, and for all that, he got home ten minutes before the king's daughter.

The king was vexed, and his daughter still more so, and they took counsel together how they might rid themselves of him and his companions at the same time.

"I have a plan," said the king. Then he went out to the men and bade them to feast, and be merry, and eat and drink. He led them into a room which had a floor of iron, and the doors were

iron, and the windows had iron frames and bolts. In the room was a table set with costly food.

"Now, go in there and make yourselves at home," said the king.

### III.

When they had gone in, he had the door locked and bolted. Then he called the cook and told him to make a great fire underneath the room, so that the floor would become red hot.



The cook did so, and the six men began to feel the room growing very warm, by reason, as they thought at first, of a good dinner. But as the heat grew greater and greater, and they found the doors and windows fastened, they began to think it was a plan of the king to roast them.

But the man with a little hat set his hat straight on his head, and there came such a frost that all

the heat passed away, and the food froze in the dishes.

After an hour or two, the king thought they all must have perished in the heat, and caused the door to be opened, and went in himself to see how they fared. When the door flew back, there they were all quite safe and sound. They said they were quite ready to come out so they might warm themselves, for that room was so cold that all the food froze in the dishes. The king went to the cook and scolded him, and asked why he had not done as he was ordered.

"It is hot enough there, as you may see for yourself," answered the cook. When the king saw the great fire burning underneath the room of iron, he began to think that the six men were not to be got rid of in that way. So he sent for the leader and said to him,

"If you will give up your right to my daughter, and take gold instead, you may have as much as you please."

"Certainly, my lord king," answered the man; "let me have as much gold as my servant can carry, and I give up all claim to your daughter." And the king agreed that he should come again in a fortnight to fetch the gold. The man then called together all the tailors in the kingdom, and set them to work to make a sack, and it took them a

fortnight. And when it was ready, the strong man who had been found rooting up trees took it on his shoulder and went to the king.

#### IV.

“Who is this fellow carrying on his shoulder a bundle of stuff as big as a house?” cried the king, terrified to think how much gold he would carry off. And a ton of gold was dragged in by sixteen strong men, but he put it all into the sack with one hand, saying,

“Why don’t you bring some more? this hardly covers the bottom!” So the king bade them fetch by degrees the whole of his treasure, and even then the sack was not half full.

“Bring more!” cried the man; “these few scraps go no way at all!” Then at last seven thousand wagons laden with gold collected through the whole kingdom were driven up; and he threw them in his sack, oxen and all.

“I must make an end of this,” he said; “if it is not full, it is so much the easier to tie up,” And he hoisted the sack on his back, and went off with his comrades.

When the king saw all the wealth of his realm carried off by a single man he was full of wrath, and he bade his cavalry mount, and follow after the six men, and take the sack away from the strong man.



Two regiments were soon up to them, and told them they were prisoners, and to deliver up the sack, or be cut in pieces.

"Prisoners!" said the man who could blow, "suppose you first have a little dance together in the air," and holding one nostril, and blowing through the other, he sent the regiments flying heels over head, over the hills and far away.

But a sergeant who had nine wounds and was a brave fellow, begged not to be put to so much shame. And the blower bade him go to the king and tell him that whatever regiments he liked to send more should be blown away just the same. When the king got the message, he said,

"Let the fellows be; they have some right on their side." So the six comrades carried home their treasure, and divided it among them and lived to a good old age.

### **The Knapsack, the Hat, and the Horn.**

Once there were three brothers, and they grew poorer and poorer, until at last their need was so great that they had nothing left to bite or to break. Then they said, "This will not do; we had better go out into the world and seek our fortune."

So they set out, and went some distance through many green fields, but they met with no good fortune. One day they came to a great wood,

in the midst of which was a hill, and when they came near to it, they saw that it was all of silver. Then said the eldest,

“Now here is good fortune enough for me, and I desire no better.”

And he took of the silver as much as he could carry, turned round, and went back home. But the other two said,

“We must have something better than mere silver,” and they would not touch it, but went on farther. After they had gone on a few days longer, they came to a hill that was all of gold. The second brother stood still and considered, and was uncertain.

“What shall I do?” said he; “shall I take of the gold enough to last me my lifetime, or shall I go farther?”

At last he filled his pockets as full as they would hold, bade good-bye to his brother, and went home. But the third brother said to himself,

“Silver and gold do not tempt me; I will not gainsay fortune, who has better things in store for me.”

So he went on, and when he had journeyed for three days, he came to a wood still greater than the former ones, so that there was no end to it; and in it he found nothing to eat or to drink, so that he was nearly starving. He got up into a

high tree, to see how far the wood reached, but as far as his eyes could see, there was nothing but the tops of the trees. And as he got down from the tree, hunger pressed him sore, and he thought,

“Oh that for once I could have a good meal!”

And when he reached the ground, he saw to his surprise a table beneath the tree richly spread with food that smoked before him.

“This time, at least,” said he, “I have my wish,” and without stopping to ask who had brought the meal there, and who had cooked it, he came to the table and ate his fill.

## II.

When he had finished, he thought, “It would be a pity to leave such a good table-cloth behind in the wood,” so he folded it up neatly and pocketed it. Then he walked on, and in the evening, when hunger again seized him, he thought he would put the table-cloth to the proof, so he brought it out and said,

“Now I desire that you be spread with a good meal,” and no sooner were the words out of his mouth, than there stood on it as many dishes of delicious food as there was room for.

“Now that I see,” said he, “what sort of a cook you are, I hold you dearer than the mountains of silver and of gold,” for he saw that it was a wishing cloth. Still he was not satisfied to settle down

at home with only a wishing-cloth, so he determined to wander farther through the world and seek his fortune. One evening, in a lonely wood, he came upon a charcoal burner at his furnace, who had put some potatoes to roast for his supper.

"Good evening, my black fellow," said he, "how do you get on in this lonely spot?"

"One day is like another," answered the charcoal burner; "every evening I have potatoes; have you a mind to be my guest?"

"Many thanks," answered the traveller, "I will not deprive you; you do not expect a guest; but if you do not object, you shall be the one to be invited."

"How can that be managed?" said the charcoal burner. "I see that you have nothing with you, and if you were to walk two hours in any direction, you would meet with no one to give you anything."

"For all that," answered he, "there shall be a feast so good that you have never tasted the like."

Then he took the table-cloth from his knapsack and spread it on the ground. "Cloth, be covered," said he, and there appeared at once boiled and roast meat, as hot as if it had just come from the kitchen. The charcoal burner stared, but did not wait to be asked twice. He fell to and filled his mouth with bigger and bigger pieces. When they had finished



eating, the charcoal burner wanted to buy the table-cloth.

"Look here," he said, "your table-cloth would not be a bad thing for me to have here in the wood, where cooking is not first rate. I will strike a bargain with you. There hangs a soldier's knapsack in the corner, which looks old and unsightly, but it has wonderful qualities. As I have no further use for it, I will exchange it for the table-cloth."

"I must first know what these qualities are," returned the other.

"I will tell you," answered the charcoal burner. "If you strike it with your hand, there will appear a corporal and six men with swords and muskets, and whatever you wish to have done they will do."

"Well, for my part," said the other, "I am quite willing to make the exchange." And he gave the table-cloth for the knapsack. He slung the knapsack over his shoulder, and took his leave. Before he had gone far, he began to want to make a trial of his wonderful knapsack so he struck it a blow. At once seven soldiers appeared.

### III.

"What does my lord and master wish?" said the corporal.

"March in haste to the charcoal burner and demand my wishing cloth," said the man. They

wheeled round to the left, and were not long before they had taken away, without wasting many words, the wishing cloth from the charcoal burner.

The man then dismissed them, and wandered on. He expected still more wonderful luck. About sunset he fell in with another charcoal burner, who was getting his supper ready at the fire.

"Will you join me?" said this black fellow;



"potatoes and salt, without butter; sit down to it with me."

"No," answered he, "this time you shall be my guest." And he spread out his table-cloth, and it was directly covered with the most delicious victuals. So they ate and drank together and were merry. After the meal was over the charcoal burner said,

"Over there, on the bench, lies an old worn-out hat, which has wonderful properties; if you put it

on and draw it well over you head, it is as if a dozen field-pieces went off, one after the other, shooting everything down, so that no one can stand against them. This hat is of no use to me, and I will give it to you in exchange for the table-cloth."

"All right," answered the other, taking the hat and carrying it off, and leaving the table-cloth behind him. Before he had gone far he struck upon the knapsack, and summoned his soldiers to fetch back the table cloth again.

"First one thing, and then another," thought he, "just as if my luck was never to end." And so it seemed, for at the end of another day's journey he came up to another charcoal burner, who was roasting his potatoes just like the others. He invited him to eat with him off his wishing-cloth, to which the charcoal burner took such a fancy, that he gave him for it a wonderful horn. If a man blew on it down fell all walls and fortresses, and finally towns and villages in heaps. So the man gave the table-cloth in exchange for it to the charcoal burner, afterwards sending his men to fetch it back. At last he had in his possession knapsack, hat, and horn, all at one time.

"Now," said he, "I am a made man, and it is time to go home again and see how my brothers are faring."



## IV.

When he reached home he found that his brothers had built themselves a fine house with their silver and gold, and lived in clover. He went to see them, but because he wore a half-worn-out coat, and a shabby hat, and carried the old knapsack on his back, they would not recognize him as their brother. They said, "It is of no use your giving yourself out to be our brother; he who scorned silver and gold, seeking for better fortune, will return in great splendor, as a king, and not as a beggar-man." And they drove him from their door.

Then he flew into a great rage, and struck upon his knapsack until a hundred and fifty men stood before him in rank and file. He ordered them to surround his brothers' house, and that two of them should take hazel-rods and should beat the brothers until they knew who he was. There arose a terrible noise, and the people ran together and wished to rescue the brothers, but they could do nothing against the soldiers.

It happened that the king heard of it, and sent his troops to drive the disturber of the peace out of the town. But the man with his knapsack soon called a greater number of soldiers, who beat back the king's troops, and sent them away with bloody noses.



Then the king said this vagabond fellow must be put down. So the next day he sent even a larger company against him, but they could do nothing. The man called more men than ever, and in order to bring them quickly, pulled his hat twice lower over his brows. Then the heavy guns began to play, and the king's troops were beaten and put to flight.

"Now," said the man, "I shall not make peace until the king gives me his daughter for my wife, and lets me rule the whole kingdom in his name."

"This is a hard nut to crack," said the king to his daughter. "There is no choice but for me to do as he asks. If I wish to have peace and keep the crown on my head, I must give in to him."

## V.

So the wedding took place, but the king's daughter was angry that the bridegroom should be a common man, who wore a shabby hat, and carried an old knapsack on his back. She wished very much to get rid of him, and thought day and night how she might manage it. Then it struck her that perhaps all his power lay in his wonderful knapsack. So she pretended to be very fond of him, and when he was in good humor, she said to him, "Pray lay aside that ugly knapsack; it makes me feel quite ashamed of you."

"My dear child," answered he, "this knapsack is my greatest treasure; so long as I keep it I need not fear anything in the whole world," and then he showed her what wonderful qualities it had. Then she fell on his neck as if she would have kissed him, but, by a clever trick, she slipped the knapsack over his shoulder and ran away with it. As soon as she was alone she struck upon it and summoned the soldiers, and bade them seize her husband and bring him to the king's palace. They obeyed, and the false woman had many more to follow behind, so as to be ready to drive him out of the country.

He would have been quite done for if he had not still kept the hat. As soon as he could get his hands free he pulled it twice forward on his head; and then the cannon began to thunder and beat all down, till at last the king's daughter had to come and beg pardon. And as she prayed and promised to behave better, he raised her up and made peace with her. Then she grew very kind to him, and seemed to love him very much, until one day he confided to her that even if he were deprived of his knapsack nothing could be done against him as long as he should keep the old hat. And when she knew the secret she waited until he had gone to sleep; then she carried off the hat and had him driven out into the streets. Still the horn remained to

him, and in great wrath he blew a great blast upon it, and down came walls and fortresses, towns and villages, and buried the king and his daughter among their ruins. If he had not set down the horn when he did, and if he had blown a little longer, all the houses would have tumbled down, and there would not have been left one stone upon another. After this no one dared to withstand him, and he made himself king over the whole country.

### **The Tinder-Box.**

A soldier came marching along the road. He had his knapsack on his back and his sword by his side, for he had been to the wars, and was now on his way home. As he went on, he met an old witch; she was very ugly, and her under lip hung down upon her breast. "Good evening, soldier," she said. "What a fine sword you have, and what a big knapsack. You're a proper soldier, and you shall have as much money as you like."

"Thank you, you old witch," said the soldier.

"Do you see that great tree," said the witch, and she pointed to a tree which stood beside them. "It's quite hollow inside. You must climb to the top, and then you will see a hole through which you can let yourself down, and get deep into the tree. I'll tie a rope around your body, so that I can pull you up again when you call me."



"What am I to do down in the tree?" asked the soldier.

"Get money," replied the witch. "Listen to me. When you come down to the earth under the tree, you will find yourself in a great hall. It is quite light, for more than three hundred lamps are burning there. Then you will see three doors; those you can open, for the keys are hanging there. If



you go into the first chamber, you'll see a great chest in the middle of the floor. On this chest sits a dog, and he's got a pair of eyes as big as two tea cups. But you need not care for that.

"I'll give you my blue-checked apron, and you can spread it upon the floor. Then go up quickly and take the dog, and set him on my apron; then open the chest and take as many shillings as you like. They are of copper. If you prefer silver



you must go into the second chamber. But there sits a dog with a pair of eyes as big as mill-wheels. But do not care for that. Set him upon my apron, and take some of the money.

“And if you want gold you can have that too—in fact, as much as you can carry—if you go into the third chamber. But the dog that sits on the money chest there has two eyes as big as round towers. He is a fierce dog, you may be sure; but you needn’t be afraid of him, for all that. Only set him on my apron, and he won’t hurt you. Then take out of the chest as much gold as you like.”

“That’s not so bad,” said the soldier, “but what am I to give you, old witch? for I fancy you will not do this for nothiug.”

“No,” replied the old witch, “not a single shilling will I have. You shall only bring me an old tinder-box which my grandmother forgot the last time she was down there.”

“Then tie the rope round my body,” cried the soldier.

“Here it is,” said the witch, “and here is my blue-checked apron.”

Then the soldier climbed up into the tree, let himself slip into the hole, and stood in the great hall where the three hundred lamps were burning.

Now he opened the first door. Ugh! there sat the dog with eyes as big as tea-cups staring at him.

"You're a nice fellow," exclaimed the soldier. Then he sat him on the witch's apron, and took as many copper shillings as his pockets would hold. He locked the chest, sat the dog on it again, and went into the next chamber. Aha! there sat the dog with eyes as big as mill-wheels.

"You should not stare so hard at me," said the soldier; "you might strain your eyes." And he set the dog upon the witch's apron. When he saw the silver money in the chest, he threw away all the copper money he had, and filled his pockets and his knapsack with silver. Then he went into the third chamber. Oh, that was horrid! The dog there really had eyes as big as towers, and they turned round and round in his head like wheels.

"Good evening," said the soldier, and he touched his cap, for he never had seen such a dog as that before. He lifted him down and opened the chest. Mercy! what a quantity of gold there was! He could buy the whole town with it, and the sugar sucking-pigs of the cake woman, and all the tin soldiers, whips, and rocking-horses in the whole world.

Now the soldier threw away all his silver coin and took gold instead. Yes, all his pockets, his knapsack, his boots, and his cap were filled, so he could scarcely walk. Now indeed he had all the

money he wanted. He put the dog on the chest, shut the door, and called up through the tree, "Now pull me up, you old witch."

"Have you the tinder-box?" asked the witch.

"Plague on it!" exclaimed the soldier; "I had clean forgotten that." And he went and brought it.

The witch drew him up, and he stood on the high road again, with pockets, knapsack, boots, and cap full of gold.

"What are you going to do with the tinder-box?" asked the soldier.

"That's nothing to you," retorted the witch. "You've had your money, just give me the tinder-box."

"Nonsense!" said the soldier. "Tell me at once what you are going to do with it, or I'll draw my sword and cut off your head."

"No," cried the witch.

So the soldier cut off her head. There she lay. But he tied up all his money in her apron, took it on his back like a bundle, put the tinder-box in his pocket, and went straight off towards the town.

## II.

That was a splendid town. And he put up at the very best inn, and asked for the finest rooms, and ordered his favorite dishes, for he was rich now, as he had so much money. Our soldier had become a fine gentleman; and the people told him

of all the fine things which were in the city, and about the king and what a pretty princess the king's daughter was.

"Where can one see her?" asked the soldier. "She is not to be seen at all," they said, all together. "She lives in a great copper castle, with a great many walls and towers round it. No one but the king may go in and out there, for it has been foretold that she shall marry a common soldier, and the king can't bear that."

"I should like to see her," thought the soldier; but he could not get leave to do so. Now he lived merrily, and gave much money to the poor. This was very kind of him, for he knew from old times how hard it is when one has not a shilling. Now he was rich, and had fine clothes, and gained many friends, who all said he was a fine gentleman.

But he spent his money every day and never earned any. At last he had only two shillings left, and he was obliged to turn out of his fine rooms and live in a little garret under the roof. None of his friends came to see him now, for there were too many stairs to climb.

It was quite dark one evening, and he could not even buy himself a candle. He remembered that there was a candle-end in the tinder-box which he had taken out of the hollow of the tree. He brought out the tinder-box and the candle-end.



But as soon as he struck fire and the sparks rose up from the flint, the door flew open and the dog who had eyes as big as a couple of tea-saucers, and whom he had seen in the tree, stood before him, and said: "What are my lord's commands?"

"What is this?" said the soldier. "That's a famous tinder-box if I can get everything with it I want. Bring me some money," said he to the dog. And *whisk*, and the dog was gone, and *whisk*, he was back again with a great bag full of shillings in his mouth.

Now the soldier knew what a capital tinder-box this was. If he struck it once, the dog came who sat upon the chest of copper money; if he struck it twice, the dog came who had the silver; and if he struck it three times, the dog came who had the gold. Now the soldier moved back into the fine rooms, and appeared in handsome clothes. All his friends knew him again, and cared very much for him indeed.

Once he thought to himself, "It is very strange that one cannot get a sight of the princess. They all say she is very beautiful; but what is the use of all that if she has always to sit in the great copper castle with the many towers? Can I not manage to see her at all? Where is my tinder-box?" And so he struck a light, and *whisk!* came the dog with eyes as big as tea-cups.

"It is midnight, certainly," said the soldier, "but I should like very much to see the princess, only for one little moment."

And the dog was outside the door directly, and, before the soldier thought it, came back with the princess. She sat upon the dog's back and slept. Every one could see that she was a real princess, for she was so lovely. The soldier could not refrain from kissing her, for he was a true soldier. Then the dog ran back again with the princess. But when morning came, and the king and queen were drinking tea, the princess said that she had had a strange dream the night before about a soldier and a dog. She dreamed that she had ridden upon the dog and the soldier had kissed her.

"That would be a fine history," said the queen. So one of the old court ladies had to watch the next night by the princess's bed, to see if this was really a dream, or what it might be.

The soldier had a great longing to see the princess again; so the dog came in the night, took her away, and ran as fast as he could. But the old lady put on water-boots, and ran just as fast after him. When she saw that they both entered the a great house, she thought, "Now I know where it is." Then she drew a great cross on the door with a bit of chalk.

Then she went home and lay down, and the

dog came up with the princess. But when he saw that there was a cross drawn on the door where the soldier lived, he took a piece of chalk too, and drew crosses on all the doors in town. And that was cleverly done, for now the lady could not find the right door, because all the doors had crosses upon them.

### III

Early in the morning came the king and queen, and the old court lady, and all the officers to see where the princess had been. "Here it is," said the king, when he saw the first door with a cross upon it." "No, my dear husband, it is there," said the queen, who saw another door which had a cross upon it. "But there is one, and there is one," said all, for wherever they looked, there were crosses on the doors. So they saw that they could not find the house if they searched all day.

But the queen was a very clever woman, and could do more than ride in a coach. She took her great gold scissors, cut a piece of silk into pieces, and made a neat little bag. This bag she filled with fine wheat flour, and tied it on the princess's back. When that was done, she cut a little hole in the bag, so the flour would be scattered along all the way which the princess should take.

In the night the dog came again and took the princess on his back and ran with her to the soldier,

who loved her very much. He wished he were a prince so he might marry her. The dog did not notice at all how the flour ran out in a stream from the castle to the windows of the soldier's house, where he ran up the wall with the princess. In the morning the king and queen saw well enough where their daughter had been, and they took the soldier and put him in prison.

There he sat all the day. Oh, but it was very dark and dismal there! And they said to him, "To-morrow you shall be hanged." That was not pleasant to hear, and he had left his tinder-box at the inn. In the morning he could see, through the iron grating in his little window, how the people were hurrying out of the town to see him hanged. He heard the drums beat, and saw the soldiers marching. All the people were running out, and among them was a shoemaker's boy with a leather apron and slippers. He galloped so fast that one of his slippers flew off and came right against the wall where the soldier was looking through the iron grating.

"Halloo, you shoemaker's boy! you needn't be in such a hurry," cried the soldier to him. "It will not begin until I get there. But if you will run to where I lived and bring me my tinder-box, you shall have four shillings; but you must put your best leg foremost."



The shoemaker's boy wanted to get the four shillings, so he went and brought the tinder-box and—well, we shall hear now what happened.

Outside the town a great gallows had been built, and around it stood the soldiers and many hundred thousand people. The king and queen sat on a splendid throne, opposite to the judges and the council. The soldier already stood upon the ladder. Just as they were about to put the rope around his neck, he said to them that before a poor criminal suffered his punishment, some innocent request was always granted him. He wanted very much to smoke a pipe of tobacco; as it would be the last pipe he should smoke in the world.

The king could not say no to this, so the soldier took his tinder-box and struck fire. One—two—three, and there suddenly stood all the dogs—the one with eyes as big as tea-cups, the one with eyes as large as mill-wheels, and the one whose eyes were as big round as towers.

“Help me now so I shall not be hanged,” said the soldier. And the dogs fell upon the judge and all the council, and siezed one by the leg, another by the nose, and tossed them all many feet into the air, so that they fell down and were all broken to pieces.

“I won't,” cried the king; but the biggest dog took him and the queen and threw them after the

others. Then the soldiers were afraid, and the people cried, "Little soldier, you shall be our king, and marry the beautiful princess."

So they put the soldier into the king's coach, and all the three dogs started on in front and cried "Hurrah!" and the boys whistled through their fingers, and the soldiers presented arms. The princess came out of the copper castle, and became queen, and she liked that very well. The wedding lasted a week, and the three dogs sat at the table too, and opened their eyes wider than ever at all they saw.

### **Aladdin; or, The Wonderful Lamp.**

Aladdin was the son of a poor widow who lived in a city in China. She had to work hard for herself and Aladdin, and so had very little time to look after him.

One day, when he was playing in the streets with a lot of children, a man came up to him and told him that he was his uncle.

Aladdin had never heard that he had an uncle, but as the man spoke kindly, and told him that he meant to do great things for him, he believed him; and when he asked him to take a walk into the country, went without fear.

The stranger led him along until they came to a valley between two high hills. Here he stopped,

and told Aladdin to gather all the dried sticks that that he could find. When they were gathered into a heap he set fire to them.

Then he threw into the flames some powder which he had with him. The earth opened, and showed a large flat stone with a ring in it.

He next told Aladdin to take hold of the ring and lift the stone. It swung back like a trap-door, and they saw a stone stairway leading down into the earth.

"Now," said the stranger, "you must go down the stairway, and pass through three large halls which lead one into another.

"From the last you must go out into a garden, in which you will see a lamp burning. Take the lamp down, put out the light, and bring it to me." He ended by putting a ring upon Aladdin's finger, which he said was a charm that would protect him; and sent him down the stairs.

He reached the garden and found the lamp. As he came back he saw that the trees were were covered with pieces of glass of beautiful colors. He gathered a lot of them, and put them away in his his pockets. As soon as he reached the stairway, the stranger called to him to hand up the lamp.

"Not until I am out, uncle," said Aladdin.

At this the man lost his temper, and told him to hand it up at once.

But Aladdin would not part with it until he was safe above ground.

When the stranger saw this he flew into a rage, and threw more of the powder on the fire. The stone dropped into its place, and Aladdin was shut in the cavern.

Now the stranger was not Aladdin's uncle at all, but a man who had heard of the lamp in the garden.

This was his plan for getting it. It was out of his power to open the cavern a second time, so he left as quickly as he could for his home in Africa.

Aladdin was in the cavern, in darkness, for two days. At the end of that time he thought he was going to die of hunger, and put his hands together to pray. As he did so, he rubbed the ring which the stranger had put on his finger. The cavern at once filled with a cloudy light, and an immense geni arose out of the ground, and said:—

“What would you have? I am ready to obey—I and all the other slaves of that ring.”

Aladdin was almost speechless with fright, but said that all he wished was to be at home once more.

He found himself there at once, safe, but very hungry. When he asked his mother for food, she had to tell him that she had none to give him. He thought of the lamp and asked her if she could not



sell it, and buy something to eat. She looked at it, and said that if it were cleaned she might be able to get a little for it.

So she took a cloth and began to rub it, when, with a clap of thunder, there arose before them another geni, who said:—

“What would you have? I am ready to obey, as the slave of that lamp—I and all the other slaves of the lamp.”

Aladdin's mother nearly fainted, but Aladdin took the lamp from her hands and said, boldly:—

“Bring us something to eat.”

The geni left, but soon came back with a silver tray full of the best food, and Aladdin and his mother sat down and ate.

Now that he knew the power of the lamp, he kept on getting food for his mother and himself in the same way.

They sold the silver trays it was brought on, and bought what they needed with the money. Aladdin dressed well and neatly and stopped playing with the boys in the street.

One day, as he stood near the public baths, he saw the sultan's daughter. She had the loveliest face he had ever seen, and he fell deeply in love with her. When he went home, he told his mother that she must go to the sultan, and ask for him the hand of the princess in marriage.

"Why, son," said she, "have you lost your senses? The sultan would not give it."

"But mother," said Aladdin, "those pieces of glass, as we thought them, which I brought home from the underground garden, are gems of the greatest value. I feel sure that if you take them to the sultan as a present, he will listen to you."

His mother went to the sultan's palace and told him what she wanted.

He smiled, but when he saw the present, he said, "Your son may well ask for the hand of a princess if he is rich enough to make such a present as that. So, say to him that if he will send me forty white slaves, each leading a black slave, and each black slave bearing a vase full of such gems as these, he shall have the hand of the princess."

When Aladdin's mother gave her son the sultan's message, he was wild with delight. With the aid of the geni of the lamp he at once did what the sultan wished. A train of slaves marched to the palace, Aladdin's mother at the head.

"Madam," said the sultan, "tell your son to come here at once. I wish to see him."

So Aladdin called upon the geni again, to provide rich garments for himself and his mother, fine horses to ride upon, and a large train of slaves to attend them. Then they started for the sultan's palace.

The sultan was very much pleased with Aladdin, and seating him upon his right hand, talked with him. He found him so clever that he was charmed, and said that the marriage should take place at once.

Aladdin, however, wished to wait until he could build a palace fit for the princess. To this the sultan agreed, and it was settled that it should be built near the sultan's own palace.

The palace was in its place the next morning and the marriage took place, with great display; and Aladdin and the princess lived together, for a time, in happiness.

But the fame of all this spread far and wide—even to Africa, where lived the stranger who had left Aladdin in the cavern. He knew at once that Aladdin must have escaped, and he made up his mind to go to China and try to get the lamp away from him.

He bought a stock of lamps, and went under the palace windows, and began to cry:—

“New lamps for old ones! New lamps for old ones!”

He made such a noise that the princess heard him. She hunted for an old lamp, and found Aladdin's. This was sent out to the stranger, and he gladly gave a new one for it. At once he made the geni take the palace and all that was in it to Africa.

When the sultan heard of it, his grief and rage were terrible; and he ordered Aladdin to leave the city, and not to return without the princess.

Poor Aladdin went with very little hope, and after a long time was about to drown himself, when he thought of the magic ring which he still wore upon his finger. He rubbed it and the geni came and asked what he wanted. Aladdin begged for his princess and palace.

"That is beyond my power," said the geni. "Only the slave of the lamp can do that."

"Then, at least, carry me to where they are," said Aladdin.

He at once found himself under the walls of his palace, where it stood near a city in Africa.

Great was the joy of the princess and Aladdin to be together once more. After a while, Aladdin asked the princess if she knew what had become of the old lamp which had stood upon a shelf in his dressing-room.

Then she told Aladdin how she had given the lamp for a new one; and had found herself, the next morning, in Africa.

Then they made a plan to get rid of their enemy. Aladdin bought a drug that would put any one to sleep.

The next morning the princess put a part of it into a glass of wine. This she gave to the



stranger. He drank it and fell into a sound sleep. As soon as he was asleep, Aladdin took the lamp from his hand, called the geni and told him to carry the palace back to China.

The sultan gave a great feast in his joy at seeing them.

Ever after, Aladdin was very careful to keep his lamp in a safe place.

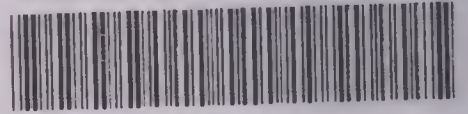
When the sultan died, at a good old age, the princess and Aladdin became the rulers. They ruled wisely, and lived long, loved by all their people.







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